Banning import of pollutant material

†1252. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that highly pollutant useless material is still being imported in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the cost of this material being imported annually on an average;

(d) whether Government are considering to take effective steps to ban the import of such material; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Import of highly pollutant useless material is not permitted as per the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(d) and (e) The import of hazardous wastes is regulated under rules 11 to 14 of the said rules. According to these rules, any import of hazardous waste into India for dumping and disposal is prohibited. Any hazardous waste containing or contaminated with the hazardous waste categories listed in Schedule 8 of these rule is also prohibited for imports.

However, imports of such wastes other than those listed Schedule 8 of these rules, is permitted into the country for recycling by the registered recyclers, registered with the Central Pollution Control Board and having environmentally sound management facilities for reprocessing such wastes. The import of hazardous waste is also regulated under the Export Import Policy of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Development of infrastructure in forest areas

1253. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to ensure that tourists should be able to visit reserved forest areas and the guide should ensure that the wildlife could be seen like in many African and other countries;

(b) whether Government plan to develop better infrastructure including roads and accomodation in forest areas for increasing the number of visitors and making maintenance of forests more self-sufficient; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.